DRAFT CEQA SCOPING MEETING CHECKLIST

For the Chollas, Paleta & Switzer Creek Toxicity TMDLs

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
San Diego Region

October 14, 2008

Reasonably Foreseeable Methods of Compliance - BMPs

Any analysis of potential environmental impacts going from TMDL implementation must be based on the numerous alternative methods of compliance available for controlling toxicity loading in Chollas, Paleta and Switzer Creeks. The majority of toxicities in these Creeks result from stormwater runoff of toxics material from freeway surfaces and commercial/industrial land uses. Attainment of these TMDLs will be achieved through discharger implementation of structural Best Management Practices (BMPs) and nonstructural BMPs (i.e. control strategies) designed to reduce toxic loading in urban runoff. Structural and non-structural BMPs can be based on specific land uses, sources, or periods of a storm event, and are described in general below. Nonstructural BMPs are generally designed to control or eliminate the sources of pollutants to a watershed. Structural BMPs include source control as well as treatment control BMPs designed to remove pollutants from runoff. In order to comply with these TMDLs, emphasis should be placed on BMPs that control the sources of pollutants and on the maintenance of BMPs that remove pollutants from runoff. Some examples of BMPs that may be implemented by the dischargers to meet the TMDLs are described below. These examples are general, and are not meant to be exhaustive of the suitable suit of appropriate BMPs.

Nonstructural Controls

1. **Education and Outreach**: Conduct education and outreach to residents and businesses to discourage over-watering. Conduct education and outreach to residents, businesses, and municipal fleets to encourage vehicle and equipment practices that minimize the potential for contamination of stormwater runoff.

2. **Road and Street Maintenance**: Increase the frequency of street sweeping to maintain clean sidewalks, streets, and gutters. Street sweeping reduces non-point source pollution by five to 30 percent when a conventional mechanical broom and vacuum-assisted wet sweeper is used. The USEPA reported that the new vacuum assisted dry sweepers can achieve a 50 to 88 percent overall reduction in the annual sediment loading for a residential street, depending on sweeping frequency. A reduction in sediment load may lead to a reduction in toxic material being carried to the MS4, and ultimately to Chollas, Paleta and Switzer Creeks.

3. **Illicit Discharges**: Identify and eliminate illicit discharges to the storm drain system.

4. **Inspections**: Conduct inspections of commercial and industrial facilities for compliance with local ordinances and permits. Conduct inspections of treatment control BMPs to ensure their adequacy of design and proper function.

5. **Development/Enforcement of Local Ordinances**: Develop and enforce municipal ordinances prohibiting exposure of toxicity producing materials to stormwater and stormwater drainage pathways, or eliminating dry weather nuisance flows.

Structural Controls – Up-stream

1. **Vegetated Swales and Buffer Strips**: Construct and maintain vegetative buffer strips along roadsides and in medians to slow runoff velocities and increase stormwater infiltration. Replace curbs with vegetated swales to allow highway and road runoff to be filtered through vegetated shoulders and medians. Eliminate constructed curbs to increase infiltration to ground water.

2. **Bioretention**: Construct and maintain bioretention BMPs to provide on-site removal of toxicity from storm water runoff through landscaping features.

3. **Detention Basins**: Construct and maintain detention basins designed to capture and treat stormwater runoff.

4. **Retention Ponds**: Construct and maintain retention/irrigation ponds to capture stormwater runoff for later irrigation of landscape.

5. **Sand Filters:** Install and maintain sand filters, in some instances including pumps, which are effective for pollutant removal from stormwater. Sand filters may be a good option in densely developed urban areas with little pervious surface since the filters occupy minimal space.

6. **Diversion Systems**: Install diversion systems to capture non-stormwater runoff. During low flow conditions, runoff may be diverted from storm drain outlets to an on-site treatment system and released back to the creek, or it may be diverted to wastewater collection plants for treatment.

7. **Porous Pavement**: Install and maintain pavement systems that allow storm water to infiltrate into ground water, and come into contact with biological systems in the soil. Storm water coming into contact with soil as overland flow can benefit from toxicity reductions.

8. **Infiltration Systems**: Install and maintain pavement systems that allow storm water to infiltrate into ground water, and come into contact with biological systems in the soil. Storm water coming into contact with soil as groundwater can benefit from toxicity reductions.

Structural Controls – On Site

1. **Phyto-remediation**: Plant and harvest vegetative aquatic plant known to remove toxicities.

2. **Site Capping:** Cap site with a layer of not-toxic sediments to allow long term deterioration of toxic substances with minimal leaching to new sediments and water column.

3. **Dredging:** Dredging, removal and disposal of toxic sediment.

Draft Environmental Checklist

	DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	No Impact
1.	**Earth. Will the proposal result in:**			
	a. Unstable earth conditions or in changes in geologic substructures?			
	b. Disruptions, displacements, compaction or overcoming of the soil?			
	c. Change in topography or ground surface relief features?			
	d. The destruction, covering or modification of any unique geologic or physical features?			
	e. Any increase in wind or water erosion of soils, either on or off the site?			
	f. Changes in deposition or erosion of beach sands, or changes in siltation, deposition or erosion which may modify the channel of a river or stream or the bed of the ocean or any bay, inlet or lake?			
	g. Exposure of people or property to geologic hazards, such as earthquakes, landslides, mudslides, ground failure, or similar hazards?			
2.	**Air. Will the proposal result in:**			
	a. Substantial air emissions or deterioration of ambient air quality?			
	b. The creation of objectionable odors?			
	c. Alteration of air movement, moisture or temperature, or any change in climate, either locally or regionally?			

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3.	**Water. Will the proposal result in:**			
	a. Changes in currents, or the course of direction or water movements, in either marine or fresh waters?			
	b. Changes in absorption rates, drainage patterns, or the rate and amount of surface water runoff?			
	c. Alterations to the course of flow of flood waters?			
	d. Change in the amount of surface water in any water body?			
	e. Discharge into surface waters, or in any alteration of surface water quality, including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen, or turbidity?			
	f. Alteration of the direction or rate of flow of ground waters?			
	g. Change in the quantity or quality of ground waters, either through direct additions or withdrawals, or through interception of an aquifer by cuts or excavations?			
	h. Substantial reduction in the amount of water otherwise available for public water supplies?			
	i. Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding or tidal waves?			
4.	**Plant Life. Will the proposal result in:**			
	a. Change in the diversity of species, or number of any species of plants (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, microflora and aquatic plants)?			
	b. Reduction of the numbers of any unique, rare or endangered species of plants?			

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	c. Introduction of new species of plants into an area, or in a barrier to the normal replenishment of existing species?			
	d. Reduction in acreage of any agricultural crop?			
	e. Toxic conditions that effect plant growth?			
5.	**Animal Life. Will the proposal result in:**			
	a. Change in the diversity of species, or numbers of any species of animals (birds, land animals including reptiles, fish and shellfish, benthic organisms, insects or microfauna)?			
	b. Reduction of the numbers of any unique, rare or endangered species of animals?			
	c. Introduction of new species of animals into an area, or result in a barrier to the migration or movement of animals?			
	d. Deterioration to existing fish or wildlife habitat?			
6.	**Noise. Will the proposal result in:**			
	a. Increases in existing noise levels?			
	b. Exposure of people to severe noise levels?			
7.	**Light and Glare. Will the proposal:**			
	a. Produce new light or glare?			
8.	**Land Use. Will the proposal result in:**			
	a. Substantial alteration of the present or planned land use of an area?			
9.	**Natural Resources. Will the proposal result in:**			
	a. Increase in the rate of use of any natural resources?			
	b. Substantial depletion of any nonrenewable natural resource?			

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10.	**Risk of Upset. Will the proposal involve:**			
	a. A risk of an explosion or the release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to: oil, pesticides, chemicals or radiation) in the event of an accident or upset conditions?			
11.	**Population. Will the proposal:**			
	a. Alter the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of an area?			
12.	**Housing. Will the proposal:**			
	a. Affect existing housing, or create a demand for additional housing?			
13.	**Transportation/Circulation. Will the proposal result in:**			
	a. Generation of substantial additional vehicular movement?			
	b. Effects on existing parking facilities, or demand for new parking?			
	c. Substantial impact upon existing transportation systems?			
	d. Alterations to present patterns of circulation or movement of people and/or goods?			
	e. Alterations to waterborne, rail or air traffic?			
	f. Increase in traffic hazards to motor vehicles, bicyclists or pedestrians?			
14.	**Public Service. Will the proposal have an effect upon, or result in a need for new or altered governmental services in any of the following areas:**			
	a. Fire protection?			
	b. Police protection?			

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	c. Schools?			
	d. Parks or other recreational facilities?			
	e. Maintenance of public facilities, including roads?			
	f. Other governmental services?			
15.	**Energy. Will the proposal result in:**			
	a. Use of substantial amounts of fuel or energy?			
	b. Substantial increase in demand upon existing sources of energy, or require the development of new sources of energy?			
16.	**Utilities and Service Systems. Will the proposal result in a need for new systems, or substantial alterations to the following utilities:**			
	a. Power or natural gas?			
	b. Communications systems?			
	c. Water?			
	d. Sewer or septic tanks?			
	e. Storm water drainage?			
	f. Solid waste and disposal?			
17.	**Human Health. Will the proposal result in:**			
	a. Creation of, and exposure of people to, any health hazard or potential health hazard (excluding mental health)?			
18.	**Aesthetics. Will the proposal result in:**			
	a. The obstruction of any scenic vista or view open to the public?			

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	b. The creation of an aesthetically offensive site open to public view?			
19.	**Recreation. Will the proposal result in:**			
	a. Impact upon the quality or quantity of existing recreational opportunities?			
20.	**Archeological/Historical. Will the proposal:**			
	a. Result in the alteration of a significant archeological or historical site, structure, object or building?			
21.	**Mandatory Findings of Significance**			
	Potential to degrade: Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?			
	Short-term: Does the project have the potential to achieve short-term, to the disadvantage of long-term, environmental goals? (A short-term impact on the environment is one which occurs in a relatively brief, definitive period of time, while long-term impacts will endure well into the future.)			
	Cumulative: Does the project have impacts which are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (A project may impact on two or more separate resources where the impact on each resource is relatively small, but where the effect of the total of those impacts on the environment is significant.)			
	Substantial adverse: Does the project have environmental effects which will cause			

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	substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?			